

AT A MEETING of the EDUCATION ADVISORY PANEL
held at The Castle, Winchester on 26 March 2014

PRESENT

Councillors: P Edgar (Chairman), R Burgess (Vice-Chairman), R Chadd, F Cowper, J England, P Fawkes, J Porter, W Lovegrove and C Choudhary

Co-opted: D White, P Clarke, D Mewes

At the Chairman's invitation: Richard Wharton – Diocesan Director of Education (Portsmouth and Winchester Diocese); and Cllr Keith Mans, Executive Member for Children's Services

31. APOLOGIES

There were none.

32. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter considered at the meeting they must declare that interest at the time of the relevant debate and, having regard to the circumstances described in Part 3, Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Non-Pecuniary interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 2 of the Code, considered whether it was appropriate to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

33. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 December 2013 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

34. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Chairman informed Members that he had participated in a BBC Radio Solent interview along with a Southampton Headteacher that morning – the NUT's national strike day – on the impact of the strike on Hampshire schools (27 closed; 50 partially closed; 182 status not known and 232 open). He felt he had rebutted the inference that teachers who were now in the Older People sector of the community were of little value to children's education at this time.

Some of Hampshire's children lost a day's education, because of the continued inability of Central Government and the Union to resolve their issues. By contrast at local level, Hampshire felt it enjoyed constructive, positive relations with the County-led Unions.

The future of St Bede Primary School, Winchester had been threatened by flooding of the River Itchen. Remarkably, a contingency replacement school had been built in 16 ½ days on the Henry Beaufort Secondary School campus. The schools' governing bodies, staff and pupils, he felt, should be acknowledged for their efforts during this period, together with those of the Armed Forces and Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service.

35. **DEPUTATIONS**

There were no deputations made.

36. **PROGRESS OF SCHOOLS IN WESTERN HAMPSHIRE CAUSING CONCERN**

The Panel received the report of the Director of Children's Services identifying the schools in Western Hampshire that were causing concern (Item 6 in the Minute Book).

There were currently two maintained schools in the West in Special Measures (Grangeside BESD School and Four Lanes Junior School). Ashwood Education Centre was also in Special Measures. There are no maintained schools with Serious Weaknesses.

Two-thirds of sponsored academies in the West were in Special Measures (New Forest and Winton Community) as was Testwood (a converter academy), which prior to conversion had been judged to be Good by Ofsted.

By contrast, Bramley CofE Primary School had had its Special Measures designation withdrawn in four terms.

RESOLVED:

That the Education Advisory Panel note the report.

37. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED:

That in relation to the following item the press and public be excluded from the meeting as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during that item there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Part 1 of the Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, and further that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information for the reasons set out in the report.

38. **PROGRESS OF SCHOOLS IN WESTERN HAMPSHIRE CAUSING CONCERN**

The Panel considered the exempt appendix of the Director of Children's Services on schools in Western Hampshire causing concern (Item 6 in the Minute Book).

Members discussed in detail issues relating to those schools.

[SUMMARY OF AN EXEMPT MINUTE]

The Panel expressed their thanks to David Hardcastle, the Area Director for Western Hampshire, and his officers for all their efforts in the schools.

The Chairman concluded the meeting by saying farewell to David White, Secretary of the Hampshire Teachers Liaison Panel, on his retirement and thanked him for his many valuable, sensible and positive contributions to the Panel's discussions over the years.